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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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11
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 /043 W
---------- 055139
R 081730Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5270
INFO RUTAIJ/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 6205
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 4452

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, ML (KILLION, DALTON V.)
SUBJECT: DESK OFFICER KILLION'S VISIT TO MALI

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: IN UNUSUAL MOVE, REPRESENTATIVES OF MALIAN PROTOCOL AND FOREIGN MINISTRY MET KILLION UPON ARRIVAL IN BAMAKO NOVEMBER 30. PRESS AND RADIO INTERVIEWS FOLLOWED IN VIP LOUNGE. AT DINNER THAT EVENING GIVEN BY DEM, SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DIRECTOR GENERAL HALIDOU TOURE, MADE POINT OF WELCOMING KILLION AND EXPRESSING DESIRE FOR CLOSE COOPERATION. OFFICIAL DAILY L'ESSOR FOLLOWING DAY GAVE FRONT-PAGE PLAY TO KILLION ARRIVAL AND RADIO MALI BROADCAST HIS ARRIVAL INTERVIEW.

2. KILLION AND DCM THEN TRAVELED TO TIMBUKTU, GAO, MOPTI AND SANGHA (PAYS DOGON) AND WERE MET EVERYWHERE BY LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO HAD READ OF KILLION'S ARRIVAL AND HAD HEARD HIM ON RADIO. IN MOPTI, GOVERNOR DAN-FAGA TOOK VISITORS FOR TOUR OF AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS AND BACK TO HIS RESIDENCE FOR DRINKS AND LONG DISCUS-SION OF MALIAN DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS.

3. ON DECEMBER 6, KILLION CALLED ON DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR COOPERATION MOUSTAPHA DEME (WHO ALSO SAW KILLION OFF AT AIRPORT) AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER KARIM DEMBELE, MEMBER OF MILITARY
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COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC

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WORKS. DEMBELE VOICED WARM PRAISE FOR AID GIVEN BY
AMERICAN PEOPLE TO MALI DURING DROUGHT AND FOR MORE
RECENT PROJECTS IN AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK. DEM-
BELE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US AID WOULD ALSO BE AVAIL-
ABLE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, POINTING OUT IMPORTANCE OF
ROADS FOR MOVING AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES TO DEFICIT AREAS
AND FOR EXPORT TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: WARM WELCOME
ACCORDED DESK OFFICER KILLION COULD BE RESULT
OF DECISION BY MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBER-
ATION TO SIGNAL DESIRE FOR IMPROVEMENT IN US-MALI
RELATIONS. EXTENSIVE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BETWEEN
AF/W DIRECTOR SMITH AND MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL TOURE
JUST BEFORE KILLION'S ARRIVAL MAY HAVE LED TO SUCH
DECISION. AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION OF CREDEN-
TIALS MID-WAY THROUGH KILLION VISIT WAS MENTIONED BY
SENIOR MALIANS AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF CLOSER US-
MALIAN RELATIONS. WHILE A DEFINITIVE JUDGEMENT WOULD
BE PREMATURE, WE ARE BEGINNING TO SENSE A DESIRE ON PART
OF MANY MALIAN OFFICIALS IN BAMAKO TO AVOID RADICAL RHETORIC
OF PAST IN FAVOR OF PRAGMATIC APPROACHES TO REAL
PROBLEMS. END CONFIDENTIAL.
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